



# Walk a mile in their shoes

Site traces the path of the civil rights movement in America

**T**omorrow is the day the nation honors the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. His writings, speeches, protests and marches helped blaze a trail for the advancement of civil rights in America.

**Civilrightstrail.com** is a website that will help you retrace the steps he and others took on the long, dangerous trek toward equality. You can use the website to explore the journey virtually, or to plan actual trips to the many historic sites that played roles in the ongoing drama.

The site is a collaborative effort with the tourism bureaus of most of the Southern states that were



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the locations of famous and infamous events along the way. As a result, it has a polished, professional feel that you don't always see on history-themed websites. But the site manages to strike a good balance between commercial slickness and an appropriate reverence for the serious subject matter.

Richly illustrated with contemporary and historic videos and photos, you are immediately

drawn into the turbulent story of race relations in mid-20th-century America. A large video montage dominates the home page, cycling through clips of Selma, Alabama; Greensboro, North Carolina; Birmingham, Alabama; Washington, D.C.; Little Rock, Arkansas; Memphis, Tennessee, and other locations where significant events occurred.

Further down the page is a grid of photos linking to pages describing the events depicted. The Freedom Riders, counter sitters, schoolchildren, marchers and martyrs who bravely defied the status quo are all featured.

Navigation links at the top and

bottom of the page connect to the main sections of the site. Interactive maps let you pick the states you want to explore. Clicking on the markers for milestones in the movement brings you to pages with more information. There are also links to other nearby points of interest should you decide to visit some of the sites in person.

The Explore the History section has a timeline starting with a walkout by Farmville, Virginia, high school students in 1951 and ending with President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act of 1968. In between are numerous events that

changed the course of history. This section also features a large photo gallery with links to details on the events.

The treatment suffered by people struggling for the right to be treated equal in America is despicable. Neighbors, service workers, police officers, school administrators and public officials at all levels conspired to deny people of color basic human dignity. King has taken us a long way since then, but we still have a long way to go.

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